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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/933,823	08/22/2001	Tsunchisa Kimura	026350-066	7232

7590 05/27/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TUAN N

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/933,823	Applicant(s)	Kimura et al.
Examiner	Tuan Nguyen	Art Unit	3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/22/01
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office Action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Westcott et al. (cited by applicants).

Westcott et al. disclose a method for separating of non-magnetic materials such as solid plastic particles (column 4, lines 34-39) comprising the steps of preparing a mixture of diamagnetic plastic particles; suspending the mixture in a supporting liquid; applying a magnetic field gradient to the mixture; and levitating the mixture at different locations in the supporting liquid depending upon their densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities. Westcott et al. further disclose using paramagnetic inorganic salt in the liquid.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Buske et al. Buske et al. disclose a method for separating on non-magnetic materials such as solid plastic particles (column 4, lines 26-31) comprising the steps of preparing a mixture of

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diamagnetic plastic particles; suspending the mixture in a supporting liquid; applying a magnetic field gradient to the mixture; and levitating the mixture at different locations in the supporting liquid depending upon their densities and diamagnetic susceptibilities. Buske et al. further disclose using paramagnetic inorganic salt in the liquid (column 8, lines 35-40).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tomaszek, Reimers et al. and SU'565 are cited to show other pertinent art.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Tuan Nguyen at telephone number 703-308-3664.



TUAN N. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

5/16/03

tnn,

May 16, 2003.